

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 929

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS GENEVA 5244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UNEP, XL

SUBJECT: UNEP CARIBBEAN PROGRAM

REF: STATE 162716

1. THACHER, CAUGHT BRIEFLY BETWEEN TRIPS, GAVE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON RECENT INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON UNEP'S CARIBBEAN PLANS.

2. PRIMARY CONCERN AT PARIS MEETING WAS TO DECIDE ON MECHANICS FOR DEVELOPING PROGRAM FOR AREAS RELATIVELY REMOTE FROM HEADQUARTERS OF UN AGENCIES CONCERNED. THACHER CITED EASE WITH WHICH COORDINATION AND PLANNING MEETINGS WERE HELD FOR PREPARATION OF MEDITERRANEAN POLLUTION CONVENTION. HE FEELS IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO DO THIS IN CARIBBEAN OR IN FAR EAST, FOR EXAMPLE. LOCAL INTERESTS MIGHT FEEL DIFFIDENT ABOUT REGIONAL PROGRAMS DEVELOPED IN PARIS, ROME, GENEVA OR NAIROBI.

3. THE GENERAL APPROACH LIKELY TO BE USED WILL BE TO SURVEY LOCAL REGIONAL SCENE TO FIND OUT WHAT RESOURCES EXIST FOR CARRYING OUT PROGRAMS THAT MIGHT BE DEVELOPED
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FOR THE REGION, AND TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO RAISE

THE CAPABILITY OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS, LABORATORIES AND SERVICES. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WILL BE AN ASSESSMENT PHASE, FOLLOWED BY A RESPONSE PHASE TO DETERMINE EXTENT TO WHICH GOVERNMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS IN THE REGION.

4. THACHER POINTS OUT THAT UNEP'S INTERESTS ARE PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION MATTERS, WHEREAS HE SUSPECTS THAT THE REGIONS WILL BE MORE INTERESTED IN TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT.

5. AS REGARDS CARIBBEAN, UNEP PLANS TO HAVE DR. S. KECKES, PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC OFFICER OF GENEVA OFFICE, VISIT CARIBBEAN THIS FALL. HE WILL PLAN TO TALK WITH U.S. INTERESTS AND VISIT U.S. RESEARCH INSTITUTES BUT WILL CONCENTRATE ON ASSESSING OTHER LOCAL CAPABILITIES IN THE AREA. UNEP WILL WORK WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF IOC REGIONAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM IN ASSISTING LOCAL INSTITUTES AND LABORATORIES TO BUILD UP THEIR CAPABILITIES IN OCEAN MONITORING. FYI: SO FAR AS U.S. RESOURCES MAY BE INVOLVED, THACHER FELT IT DESIRABLE AT THE BEGINNING TO WORK MOSTLY THROUGH U.S. ACADEMIC GROUPS RATHER THAN USG AGENCIES AND SERVICES, SO AS TO AVOID IMPLICATIONS THAT PROGRAM WOULD BE U.S. DOMINATED. END FYI.

6. IF THE USG WISHES TO HAVE KECKES TOUCH BASE WITH INTERESTED AGENCIES WHEN HE MAKES HIS AUTUMN VISIT TO THE CARIBBEAN, SUGGESTIONS AS TO INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES WOULD BE USEFUL IN MISSION'S FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THACHER WHEN HE RETURNS TO GENEVA MID-JULY. DALE

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